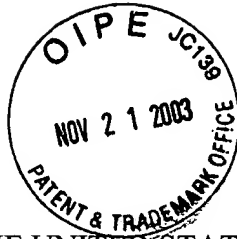


03500.015222.



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED  
DEC 01 2003  
TC 1700

|                             |   |                          |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| In re Application of:       | ) |                          |
|                             | : | Examiner: Eric B. Fuller |
| ATSUSHI KOIKE ET AL         | ) |                          |
|                             | : | Group Art Unit: 1762     |
| Application No.: 09/818,640 | ) |                          |
|                             | : |                          |
| Filed: March 28, 2001       | ) |                          |
|                             | : |                          |
| For: METHOD AND APPARATUS   | ) |                          |
| FOR DEPOSITED FILM          | : | November 20, 2003        |

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

a.) Introductory Comments

In response to the final Office Action dated October 3, 2003, kindly amend  
the subject application as follows: